



# Washington Fire Chiefs

## 2023 Legislative Priorities

- **EMS & General Health Care System Coordination**
  - Support legislative efforts to address hospital capacity issues and ER wait times
  - Support funding increases for co-responder programs, including a request from the Co-Responder Outreach Alliance for \$2 million to develop crisis intervention training for fire/EMS agencies
  - Seek opportunities for possible increases in state reimbursement rates for both non-transport treat-and-refer incidents and general Medicare/Medicaid services, while continuing to work with the Health Care Authority on changes to the GEMT program through federal CMS policy updates.
- **Wildland Fire Mitigation and Response**
  - Seek to renew authorizing language in the 2023-25 Operating Budget to allow for up to \$500K of the fire service mobilization account to be used for prepositioning of resources
  - Evaluate operational limitations in conjunction with DNR and WSFMO in an effort to improve and expedite the process for approval of aerial assets in early wildfire attack
  - Work with stakeholders to identify unprotected lands throughout Washington State, and to identify strategies for ensuring protection for rangelands and other vulnerable land
- **State Fire Marshal's Office**
  - Support efforts to increase funding for the Fire Service Training Account (086) to expand the JATC program and provide needed account stability moving forward
  - Support WSFMO legislative efforts to create rules regarding firefighter 1 training reimbursement to local agencies
  - Engage in discussions to review the scope of the WSFMO and its proper place within the state's executive branch, seeking to protect the interests of both career & volunteer FFs
- **Lithium-Ion Batteries**
  - Elevate conversations regarding the need for awareness and additional training regarding response and suppression of lithium-ion batteries and other evolving energy systems
- **Volunteer Firefighter Incentives**
  - Support legislative efforts to finalize a multi-year effort to increase the volunteer firefighters' pension
- **Washington State Association of Fire Marshals**
  - Support WSAFM efforts to update recently-enacted laws regarding the inspection and testing of fire and smoke control systems and dampers
  - Support WSAFM efforts to strengthen the International Wildland Urban Interface Code